

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2016

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY - (# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

CALIFORNIA			
Wildflower	Amber	\$2.00	
COLORADO			
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.95	
DAKOTAS			
Clover	White	\$1.70	- \$1.77
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.77	
Clover	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.77	
Western	White	\$1.70	
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	
Western	Light Amber	\$1.70	
FLORIDA			
Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.65	
IDAHO			
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	
LOUISIANA			
Goldenrod	Amber	\$1.70	
MONTANA			
Clover	White	\$1.75	
NEBRASKA			
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.77	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.77	
Clover	Light Amber	\$1.77	
NEW YORK			

Goldenrod	Light Amber	\$2.50
OREGON		
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.60
Mint	Amber	\$1.60
Wild-berry	Extra Light Amber	\$2.30
Wild-berry	Light Amber	\$2.30
TEXAS		
Canola	Light Amber	\$1.70
Western	White	\$1.70
Western	Extra Light	\$1.70

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

ARGENTINA				
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.65	-	\$1.80
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.35	-	\$1.80
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.25		
BRAZIL				
ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.58	-	\$2.37
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.68		
INDIA				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.13	-	\$1.57
VIETNAM				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.13	-	\$1.55
UKRAINE				
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.61	-	\$1.63
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.60	-	\$1.65

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MARCH, 2016

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): The weather for March continued on its roller coaster ride with one day warm, the following day cold. These temperature changes were accompanied by rainy, windy weather. Orchard bloom progressed (apricots, cherries, peaches and a few early apple varieties) and was about 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. With the extreme temperature changes and the wet weather, Orchardists were reporting fair to poor pollination in the orchards. Colonies were fairly healthy and several beekeepers reported winter losses, which they have replaced with new bees. March pollination sources were cherries, peaches, serviceberry, and various early wildflowers.

ALABAMA: Pollen and nectar sources received during March were from natural tree pollen including red maples, wild flowers and early crops. Bees and hives are in good condition. Weather all over Alabama had a very warm winter with plenty of rainfall.

An Alabama based 501(c)3 nonprofit, Claybird Bee Education Association, has begun its 6th year of teaching, training, and providing Lanstroth beekeeper methods in Haiti, in the Bombardopolis and Jaqmel areas. The purpose is to help the local's transition away from the current "hollow logs on the ground" method to a much more productive system, and planting the seeds of small business opportunities for these desperately poor families. The nonprofit's work in Haiti can be found at www.hivesforhaiti.org.

The Alabama beekeeping industry is growing. Alabama's beekeeping industry is primary a product for hobbyist beekeepers enjoyment, which is driven mostly by pollination concerns. Pollination services that bees supply is vital for wholesome food production.

The significant number of new Alabama beekeepers has resulted in new organizations being initiated in various Alabama counties. The primary purpose of these organizations is to mentor new beekeepers as they gain experience. For those who are experienced, the Alabama Beekeepers Association has developed a Master Beekeeper certification program. The primary function of this group of certified beekeepers will be to teach and mentor others in a proper fashion. Additionally, Auburn University, Department of Entomology/Plant Pathology is currently hiring a bee scientist that will further supplement Alabama's beekeeping industry.

The average beehive in Alabama produces 35 to 45 pounds of honey per year. Most honey produced in Alabama is sold locally and brings small producers a very handsome price. The climate for raising honey bee queens is very good in Alabama. Thirty years ago queen bees sold for \$2.50 apiece; they now sell for \$25 plus per queen. Before fears of Africanized honey bees and the arrival of Varroa mites altered United States beekeeping practices, Alabama queen bees were sold and shipped all over the country. Currently, most Alabama-produced queens are used locally, and the demand for such queens is high. Since the general beekeeping recommendation is that "queens be replaced annually," replacement queen production is a potential area of growth for Alabama beekeepers who are interested in diversifying their beekeeping operation. If bee colony health can be maintained, the outlook for continued growth and development of Alabama beekeeping is good. Honey prices, large and small lot, are not available for March.

ARIZONA: Some Arizona bee colonies remained out of state during the first part of the month for the purposes of pollinating fruit and nut trees elsewhere, including California. However, towards the end of the month, many colonies began returning to the state. This, coupled with warmer weather, has resulted in an increased level of bee activity in the state. Alfalfa and desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state while various citrus plants, such as oranges, also served as a source earlier in the month.

Temperatures were at above normal levels during the month of March. Dry and windy conditions also prevailed across the state during much of the month. The high temperature in Arizona for March was 96 degrees Fahrenheit in Roll, while the low temperature of 12 degrees Fahrenheit was at Window Rock.

During the month of March, the number of stations (out of 50) receiving precipitation during a one week time period were 2, 24, 0 and 0, respectively. For 2016, all 50 reporting stations have received below normal precipitation levels.

According to figures from the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), for 2014 Arizona had 26,000 honey producing colonies (the same as the previous year), 1,274,000 pounds of honey produced (264,000 pounds over 2014) with a total production value of \$2,765,000 (an increase of \$715,000 from 2014). The average per pound price for honey in Arizona in 2015 was \$2.17, up from the 2014 average of \$2.02 per pound. The demand for honey in Arizona was good.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

CALIFORNIA: It was a very warm week across the State as a ridge of high pressure built over the western United States. A resurgent onshore flow of Pacific moisture heading into the weekend caused widespread rainfall across most of the State. Lows were 20s to 40s in the mountains, 40s to 50s along the coast and in the valley, and 40s to 60s across the desert. Highs were 50s to 80s in the mountains, 70s to 80s along the coast and in the valley, and 70s to 90s in the desert.

Dry conditions prevailed early in the week, with a few sprinkles in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas on Wednesday. By Thursday, scattered light showers were prevalent across the southern third of the State, with up to a quarter of an inch of rain. More widespread and heavier rains drenched most of the State heading into the weekend, with the heaviest rains falling in the central parts of the valley and central Sierra foothills. Most areas received around half an inch to one inch of rain and some locations reported over two and a half inches of rain. The unseasonably warm temperatures were devastating to the existing mountain snowpack, with nearly 3 to 4 feet melting from most snow-packs. At most 2 to 3 inches of new snow fell during the weekend, and this quickly melted due to rainfall and warm temperatures.

The hives continue to be utilized in the stone fruit and pomegranate orchards. Due to a wet spring wild flowers and ornamental plants and flowers are readily available pollen sources for the bees. The honey flow is copious this spring, and the colonies are growing rapidly.

FLORIDA: Florida had above average precipitation and temperatures for much of the state in March. Bee health was considered to be fairly good overall with a wide range of death losses reported. Losses ranged from approximately 15% to as high as 80%. Some producers experienced high losses from hive complications created by mites, but most beekeepers reported good mite control. Nearly all bees had returned from California by the end of the month with about 20-25% remaining in the West, primarily in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and North and South Dakota. Orange bloom started early in the month and is expected to last for about a week or 10 days into April. Prices of about \$1.60 per pound were being reported for orange blossom honey. Ti started earlier in the month in the Panhandle and will also be ending at about the same time as citrus. Palmetto was just starting late in the month in South Florida and will become available over all of Florida during the next few weeks. It should remain available until sometime in June. Gallberry, which begins in late March some years, appeared to still be a couple of weeks from blooming near the end of the month and Tupelo was expected to begin near the middle of April. Some beekeepers were supplemental feeding because of heavy rains washing away the pollen. Honey demand remains good for light supplies.

GEORGIA: Temperatures varied in March and plenty of rain in varying amounts throughout the state kept the beekeepers busy trying to keep up with orders and preparing new hives for the spring. Most of the hives and bees are reported to be in good shape heading into the spring months and the upcoming honey flow is expected to be very good. Swarming is starting to be a problem in some areas and beekeepers are trying to maintain their hives in good order and expanding.

Currently the bees are feeding off of Wisteria, TyTy, Locust, Blackberries and a few other wild flowers. Prices are holding steady for the retail trade, and the commercial trade prices have dropped due to competition coming in from South America which some areas are heavy with honey.

Some losses are being reported over the nucs and packages shipped recently and it could be from changes the postal service has made regarding shipping, as special handling is no longer available.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: During the month of March temperatures were above normal over Colorado, Idaho and Utah, according to the National Weather Service. Northern areas of Utah, East of Salt Lake, Utah and the entire State of Idaho had above normal precipitation during March. Southern areas of Utah and most of Colorado were slightly below normal on precipitation during the same period according to the National Weather Service.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Colorado continues to have near normal soil moisture conditions across most areas of the State in March with the exception of abnormally dry conditions in primarily the Southeastern part of the State. There were a few additional pockets of abnormally dry

conditions scattered across the State of Colorado. Normal soil moisture conditions are present in Southeastern Utah and most of the State of Idaho. This is a vast improvement for most of Idaho since last month. There is still a small area of abnormally dry conditions in the Northeast part of Idaho. The rest of Utah ranges from abnormally dry to severe going from east to west across the State. The worst drought conditions in Utah during March continues to be in the Northwest part of the State. This area west and south of the Great Salt Lake is now considered a long term severe drought. This area has continued to grow in area during the month of March. Most of the higher mountain elevations in Idaho, Colorado and Utah had continued good snow pack in March. With warmer than normal March temperatures, snowmelt may start earlier than normal. The good snow pack is great news for farmers who depend upon it for irrigation water during the summer months.

Most commercial beekeepers from Idaho and Colorado have returned to their home States by the end of March. Some Utah commercial beekeepers have elected to stay in California until the first part of June. One commercial beekeeper stated that one of the reasons they do not go straight back to Utah after the almond pollination, is so they can keep their bees in a warm environment. He stated, "By keeping the bees in a continued warm environment, their activity level stays at a higher level, thereby reducing the chance for inactivity and problem viruses from setting into the colonies." This certainly is not a catch all solution for all beekeepers, but seems to work for a few commercial beekeepers. One of the commercial beekeepers near term focus has been the requeening existing hives that have a need, or requeening hives that have been split. New queens are also placed in the new nucs. As of late March commercial beekeepers were in the process of treating for varroa mites. Most mite loads seem to be under control at this point of time. Many of the commercial beekeepers have indicated that their bees are looking fairly good at the moment with very few losses. Some hives were looking better than others. Good brood in the hives has also been observed by commercial beekeepers.

Commercial beekeepers coming out of the almonds in California indicated that due to the good honey flow, there was not much of a need to add any supplemental feed. Moving forward commercial beekeepers were planning to add supplemental corn syrup, sugar syrup, or blends of corn syrup and sugar syrup along with pollen substitutes on an as needed basis. Most commercial beekeepers were now finished building and repairing super boxes, covers, pallets and nuc boxes. Most commercial honey remaining from the 2015 crop season has been committed, but a small amount of commercial honey from 2015 is still available according to commercial beekeepers. There was some good white commercial honey sold recently ranging from \$1.80 to \$2.05 per pound. Retail demand for local honey continues to be very good across Idaho, Utah and Colorado. Bees in yards located in Idaho and Colorado were not flying as of late March due to cooler weather. At this time of the year beekeepers are hoping the weather improves quickly so the bees can get busy making honey.

ILLINOIS: The weather for March has been mild with a good amount of rain. Temperatures were warm enough that bees took cleansing flights. Most beekeepers report their bees in good condition. The bees are trying to rebuild their population. They are feeding on Maple, Willow and dandelions. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and demand was fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

INDIANA: The weather has been good for March with warm temperatures and a few days of lots of rain. Most beekeepers report that some of their bees have survived the winter in good condition, while others report some dead hives. Beekeepers say that the bee brood is increasing. Beekeepers say that the bees are drawing nectar from dandelions and other wild flowers. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: No report issued.

KENTUCKY: Compared to previous years, Kentucky beekeepers have had it easier this March with warmer temperatures, plenty of florals and because they were able to maintain hives in January and February. Beekeepers seem to have had less winter loss. Plenty of floral resources: henbit, forsythia, daffodils, ragworts, redbud, dandelions, and other hors d'oeuvres before the major honey flows associated with tree bloom abound. The winter losses have been primarily associated with varroa mites or queen loss.

LOUISIANA: Louisiana has seen rain, with very mild winter temperatures and no late freezes. Condition of the bees is reported as excellent, with a loss of about 10% of the hives, primarily due to the loss of the queens. All of the hives had more than enough honey reserves to carry them through the winter. The honey flow is just starting and the bees have been bringing in pollen and nectar from crops, trees and flowers. No losses from mites or diseases have been reported. Fumigated with oxalic acid and use of drone brood comb has been used to manage for mites.

MICHIGAN: In southeast Michigan, demand for package bees is high to replace hive losses from the winter. SEMBA members (79) with 1 – 5 hives have reported a 51% loss from September 2015 through March 2016. The best survival rates reported were from beekeepers (4) with 26-100 hives, who recorded only a 22% loss for the same time period. Of the total beekeepers surveyed (117), losses overall were 41%, compared to 53% for 2014-15 and 56% for the 2013-14 season. Mid-state, there were a few warm days that allowed bees to forage on several types of maple, skunk cabbage and willow where available. Bees appear to be building up quickly this spring and need to be watched that they do not run out of stores prior to honey flow. With heavier early brood rearing, beekeepers need to be vigilant for varroa mite infestation and possible swarming. Survival rates in the region seem to be good thus far and vendors have reported a few packages still available, unlike the past few winters in Michigan. Sideline and commercial ventures still have some honey on hand and are receiving a better price when sold locally for retail. Barrel prices range from \$2.30 - \$3.00 per pound wholesale. According to the USDA Agricultural Statistics Service, Michigan's 2015 honey production totaled 5.22 million pounds, down 9% from one year earlier. Nationally, Michigan ranked eighth in honey production, the same as 2014. Yields from the state's 90,000 honey-producing colonies averaged 58 pounds, compared to 63 pounds the previous year. Michigan's honey price averaged \$2.43 per pound, down .06 cents from 2014, and the value of production was reported at \$12.7 million, off 11% from 2014. Stocks of 1.98 million pounds in December increased 8% from one year earlier.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were above normal across the entire State of Minnesota during the month of March, according to the National Weather Service. Precipitation was also below normal in Southern areas and above normal in Northern areas of the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, soil moisture conditions are normal over most of the State with the exception of abnormally dry conditions in the Central Western part of Minnesota. Beekeepers are anticipating an earlier spring due to the warmer temperatures. Right now beekeepers are forecasting that the first honey flow will be from dandelions in the first week of May.

Minnesota commercial beekeepers finished working in the almond fields and now will soon be transporting their bees back home to Minnesota. One of the difficulties for Minnesota commercial beekeepers is the distance between their State and the almond fields in California. The cost to transport a full load of bees and supers back to Minnesota ranges from \$4500.00 up to \$5000.00. This is a major expense that takes away from the profit obtained for

pollination services. Some commercial beekeepers from Minnesota also have operations in Southern States as well. One of the commercial beekeepers near term focus has been the production of queens in Southern States for requeening existing hives that have a need, or requeening hives that have been split. New queens are also placed in new nucs that have been built for their own use or to sell. As of late March, commercial beekeepers were in the process of treating for varroa mites. Most mite loads seem to be under control at this point of time.

Many of the commercial beekeepers have indicated that their bees are looking good at the moment with very few losses. Good brood in the hives has also been observed by commercial beekeepers. On the other hand, some beekeepers that overwintered in Minnesota were not as lucky and sustained pretty good losses in some cases as a result of a variety of problems. Commercial beekeepers coming out of the almonds in California indicated that due to the good honey flow, there was not much of a need to add any supplemental feed. Moving forward commercial beekeepers were planning to add supplemental corn syrup, or blends of corn syrup, or sugar syrup along with pollen substitutes on an as needed basis. Most commercial beekeepers were now finished building and repairing super boxes, covers, pallets and nuc boxes. Overall demand remains very good for domestic Minnesota honey, despite the limited supply. Retail prices of Minnesota honey at Farmers Markets across the State have been strong. Some Minnesota beekeepers are concerned about what effect the large carryover of 2015 honey in several States and from Canada will have on domestic prices moving forward in 2016.

MISSISSIPPI: Most of the beekeepers report the bees and hives are in good condition, however the excess moisture from heavy rains is starting to affect the bees. Supplemental feeding is needed in most areas due to the weather conditions, but the beekeepers are optimistic about the spring months ahead.

Some swarming has started in a few areas and beekeepers are preparing for a buildup of nucs and expanding the number of hives for a strong honey flow expected for spring. Prices remain steady.

MONTANA: No report issued.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather for the month of March has been very favorable and beneficial for honeybee survival. Temperatures were generally above normal for all parts of the New England region exhibiting daytime temperatures in the high 50's and low 40's with many floral sources and ornamentals coming on earlier than normal. Precipitation remained normal throughout the month of March but moisture conditions were more than adequate. Early spring ornamentals such as pussy willow, hazelnut catkins, skunk cabbage, poison ivy, swamp red maple, silver maple, winter aconite as well as snow drops (*galanthus nivalis*), snowflakes (*leucojum vernum*), have begun to bloom in a limited way. Just recently, bees have been returning to their hives with their pollen sacks brimming with orange, yellow and cream colored pollen from alders, crocus, daffodils, and witch hazel. There is pollen being brought in but most keepers have started feeding light sugar syrup, to stimulate egg laying and to increase early populations as we look ahead to apple and fruit pollination in April/May.

March is a critical month for feeding. Keepers in Southern New England are proceeding to feed 1:1 ratio sugar water and high fructose syrup in order to stimulate brood rearing with over winter hives. In this regard, colonies that show ample capped honey cells might just need light feeding or none at all depending on hive activity and/or floral sources.

March losses are not uncommon because bees are aging and the colonies stores have dwindled. Early reports are encouraging, as we are hearing that many beekeepers have strong colonies coming out of another winter. Many keepers, both hobbyists and commercial, have expressed a frustration about over wintering because purportedly, their bees going into winter were strong and had plenty of food but experienced losses after checking. Those hives that died were small in population going into winter and probably lacked the critical mass to maintain temperatures within the cluster. The second reason was starvation, especially in single colonies as they simply ran out of honey. In New England, comprehensively, colonies reported losses were variable. In some cases, there were various reports of big losses and a number of beekeepers indicating no losses. The individuals reporting no loss or little loss seemed to have feed bees and treated for mites, however because of a mild winter some keepers that did little for their colonies were successful in winter bee survival as well. Experienced keepers that consistently check and treat for disease and mites claim that if a keeper does not know what is going on in a hive, they are at risk. Consequently, successful strong survival always seems to point to the administration of a mite treatment program, primarily using formic acid last fall. Most mite/disease treated apiaries, which had gone into over wintering strong, were still in reportedly good condition this spring, while weaker hives will require packages to build up their colonies. Purportedly, most hive losses were due to a combination of varroa mites, nosema, small clusters within the hive, and neglected monitoring for supplemental feeding needs, hence many cases of starvation. The varroa mites took a bigger bite last year due to problems of treatment. Additionally, some of the weak hives are showing very few dead bees which can indicate a problem due to tracheal mites.

Queen breeders and nuc/package producers have been busy taking orders in anticipation of an early spring demand. This month is traditionally a time for bee association classes, as well as nuc and package bee pick-ups to be scheduled.

In New England, as farm groups gather in conferences to plan ahead with growers and beekeepers exchanging knowledge and developing new ideas such as planting bee forage in orchards, developing supplemental habitat plantings for bees such as cover crops and hedgerows. In regard to commercial farm production, there is a farmer/beekeeper collaboration working to develop a series of best management practices for safe bloom time spraying with fungicides and insecticides. An agreement is being sought which would avoid the applying of insecticides until more is known about this impact on brood populations in the colony.

In New England, bees wax is a valuable commodity and its availability is relative to the amount of honey production. Wax is sold by the pound, by color, and by cleanliness. Many keepers sell canary/yellow color wax for candle making and the color is determined by the pollen and honey color. White wax is the most expensive. Gray colored utility wax can be bought for less. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$10.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$18.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$215.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 to \$2.80 per pound, mostly \$2.60 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is \$14.00 to \$17.00 mostly \$16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is \$26.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$28.00 per quart. Current wholesale prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 1lb block units at \$5.50 to \$5.75 mostly \$5.50 and for 50lb block units at \$4.50 to \$5.00 mostly \$4.75. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.20 to \$3.50 mostly \$3.50 for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Retail white and cleaned beeswax prices reported are \$16.00 to \$20.00 per pound, mostly \$18.00 per pound or \$1.50 per ounce. Reportedly, United States honey production is down 12 percent for operations with five or more colonies. The per-capita honey consumption in the United States is 1.31 pounds.

NEW YORK: Recent warm and cold temperatures in constant fluctuation have increased the stress on hives from an otherwise mild winter. This fickle weather has tree buds expanding and some early tree flowers have already flowered and fallen. Silver maple bloomed three weeks early and lasted on a

short time; red maple is on now in some localized areas and poplar is beginning to bloom. However, the bloom's short stay has left a dearth between the early flow and the main flows that generally begin the end of April. Moisture and heat will be needed for the other early season flowers that follow the trees, prior to the dandelion onset. Supplemental feeding could easily be necessary to keep colonies building for the primary flows in late May and early June. The warmer and milder climate has slowed late winter honey sales. Prices have remained steady, but a slight decrease might be necessary to stimulate sales. However, if the spring months are dry, flows will be lesser and affect supplies. According to the USDA Agricultural Statistics Service, 2015 honey production in New York increased 9% from one year earlier. Total production of 3.6 million pounds from 58,000 colonies (5 or more colonies) yielded 62 pounds each, an increase of 13% from 55 pounds in 2014. However, total colony numbers dropped 3% from the previous year. Overall, the state's honey price increased to 294 cents in 2015, a 4% increase from one year earlier (283 cents).

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were above normal throughout March; while precipitation for the month was mostly below normal leaving statewide soil moisture levels rated at 9.5 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 19.5 percent surplus the week ending March 26. According to the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council there were no drought advisories in effect in North Carolina.

Apiary inspectors continued to survey hives and found starvation and Varroa mites as having contributed most towards winter losses. Surviving, healthy hives benefitted from a heavy pollen season and have built back up quickly. Blackberry and Dandelion were available in the Coastal Plains region; while Red Maple and Sugar Maple were available in the Piedmont and Mountain regions.

Demand for bees exceeds supply as veteran beekeepers prepare to replace winter losses and bee schools were packed with new beekeepers entering the field. Commercial pollinators began moving hives back to North Carolina; primarily to the eastern part of the state for blueberry pollination, but a handful were also moved into local peach orchards.

Demand for honey was high, with one local packer offering premium prices for any available supply; however, retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market remained steady at \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: March has been cold but the bees have been finishing almonds and getting prepared for their next locations, the Pacific Northwest and others. Queen rearing in the South has generally been very successful. According to NASS production in 2015 totaled 55.4 million pounds, down about 17% from 2014. The total crop value was \$99.5 million, down about 26% from 2014.

OHIO: Early spring weather has been very unpredictable – warm and cold days that put added stress on hives at this time. Reports are very mixed on survival rates, with one beekeeper commenting “decent”. Early bloom on lamium, willows, maples, if only bees could fly. Supplemental feeding is generally the order of the day, until the weather straightens out. Honey supplies for local consumption are very limited currently, with prices around \$12.00 pound at local markets. According to the USDA Agricultural Statistics Service, Ohio honey production for 2015 decreased 7% to 850,000 pounds. Yields from Ohio's 17,000 honey-producing colonies averaged 50 pounds, down 12% from 2014 (61 pounds). The average price reported was \$4.08 per pound, up .50 cents from last year, and the value of production totaled \$3.47 million, up 6% from one year earlier. Honey stocks were 357,000 pounds, up 39% from 2014. These figures represent honey from producers with 5 or more colonies. According to Kim Flottum of Bee Culture magazine, the average national consumption of honey for 2015 was 1.51 pounds per person and valued at \$2.09 per pound. Additional U.S. per capita consumption data can be found at: <http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=9296a3543dc631c8a50086511&id=b2b7372a90&e=ade20a585c>

OKLAHOMA: Pollen and nectar sources were coming from blooming corps, flowers and fruit trees. Weather conditions saw some rain but remain mostly dry and warm. Condition of bees continue to get stronger. First swarm were reported towards the end of March. Some beekeepers are not expecting many winter losses, except for the smaller hives that went into winter and seemed to have growth problems from the start. Many beekeepers are needing to re-queen. New or unusual marketing condition is with the Honey nut crunch which has a strong campaign. Pricing is reported as higher and seems like a buyers' market. Bees are currently in the almond fields.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: For the most part colonies are in good shape with plenty of food and good brood patterns. There were no serious health issues found in hives during March inspections, therefore there are no treatments required at this time. Brief cold snaps have caused minor loss in a few colonies. With ample nectar and pollen sources available, no feeding was necessary for honey productions colonies. Maple, willow, pear, apple, cherry, red bud, elm, dandelion, clover, herbs, wildflowers and ornamental flowers are producing ample nectar and pollen sources for collection. Wildflower honey produced in Tennessee is retailing an average of \$6.00 per pound.

TEXAS: Central Texas had warm winter with good blooming and honey flow early. Demand is also good with many wanting supply to be further along than it is. Bees are over all in good health with heavy boxes and being active. There are lots of plants blooming providing the usual source of food for the bees. A warmer winter and a good early spring has led to an early honey flow. Beekeepers are overall optimistic.

South Texas reports that bees are also doing well. Brood production has continued and the colonies are growing rapidly, with little or no signs of swarming. The mild winter has given the bees an early start. Despite all of the activity, honey production has been slow. The weather will dictate the timing and magnitude of the nectar flow. April may be a key indicator of whether beekeepers will make a surplus this year. A prolonged nectar flow would give the bees their best chance to gather, process, and store a good crop.

WASHINGTON: The long hot summer last year followed but an extremely wet fall and winter has not helped the bee populations. More normal winter temperatures will likely see a more normal bloom this year, not as compressed as last year. According to NASS production in 2015 totaled 3.2 million pounds, up about 7% from 2014. The total crop value was \$5.3 million, down about 33% from 2014. The average price per pound was \$164, down 37% from 2014.

WISCONSIN: The weather for has been mild overall with warm temperatures in March and lots of precipitation. Beekeepers have been checking on the bees to see how they are doing. Most beekeepers report that some of their bees have survived the winter in good condition, while others report that their bees have not survived. Beekeepers also report that their bees are feeding on Maple and Willow

trees as they bring nectar back to the hives. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		February 2015	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	1,000	2,723	0	0
Barbados	2,227	13,411	2,227	13,411
China	41,569	121,581	19,468	65,209
Japan	25,553	66,621	624	6,111
Korea, South	36,882	178,496	36,882	178,496
Kuwait	57,994	143,045	57,586	139,779
Lebanon	408	3,221	408	3,221
Netherlands Antilles(*)	3,308	20,596	1,835	12,055
Panama	897	5,341	0	0
Philippines	106,232	257,858	52,610	127,700
Saudi Arabia	15,034	65,954	15,034	65,954
Singapore	722	8,164	722	8,164
United Arab Emirates	66,131	167,771	65,587	163,417
Vietnam	375	4,285	0	0

NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -

Australia(*)	20,230	109,313	17,418	94,541
Bahamas, The	3,708	20,236	2,422	14,885
Barbados	7,286	37,843	1,744	11,101
Bermuda	5,306	29,387	3,530	19,046
Cambodia	1,157	8,716	0	0
Canada	126,186	592,177	67,270	366,361
Cayman Islands	1,578	8,664	1,578	8,664
China	42,821	108,025	42,821	108,025
France(*)	11,923	28,940	0	0
Hong Kong	22,531	138,197	14,149	96,406
Indonesia	19,113	50,750	0	0
Japan	27,762	95,610	6,700	44,490
Mexico	14,515	65,920	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	1,554	12,427	1,554	12,427
Singapore	653	4,522	653	4,522
United Arab Emirates	5,531	37,787	4,678	33,207
GRAND TOTAL	670,186	2,407,581	417,500	1,597,192

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date			February 2015		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	904,314	2,583,004	2,631,473	491,048	1,320,604	1,345,263
Brazil	237,960	930,857	957,016	54,600	210,657	210,957
Canada	1,428,542	4,447,963	4,490,429	627,501	1,895,657	1,914,778
France(*)	215	2,007	2,132	215	2,007	2,132
India	16,829	67,947	69,297	0	0	0

Mexico	51,650	197,976	197,985	34,614	132,765	132,771
Taiwan	19,530	34,875	36,340	0	0	0
United Kingdom	563	5,805	6,014	563	5,805	6,014
Uruguay	19,122	59,089	59,277	0	0	0

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	1,829,075	5,409,769	5,549,484	696,074	1,903,920	1,965,880
Australia(*)	39,000	161,850	165,410	19,500	81,900	82,460
Brazil	134,466	474,192	502,571	2,436	17,330	17,530
Canada	34,622	159,411	160,402	24,172	106,851	107,187
France(*)	483	9,477	9,600	186	5,279	5,338
India	776,700	2,006,432	2,073,917	336,600	854,964	888,849
Mexico	18,436	70,057	71,164	18,436	70,057	71,164
Pakistan	18,519	48,160	48,900	0	0	0
Portugal	2,308	14,637	15,131	2,308	14,637	15,131
Taiwan	199,485	401,214	401,614	118,305	241,164	241,364
Thailand	477,620	1,134,025	1,150,127	386,120	924,490	939,862
Ukraine	1,228,142	3,213,240	3,308,437	339,749	852,838	886,536
Vietnam	339,600	750,240	798,380	93,000	209,250	224,100

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	530,667	1,534,716	1,602,040	246,993	681,403	713,769
Austria	8,429	81,975	86,831	8,429	81,975	86,831
Brazil	152,112	464,599	484,979	0	0	0
Bulgaria	990	4,950	5,592	990	4,950	5,592
Burma	427,800	914,853	968,343	132,000	273,225	293,705
Canada	31,784	61,234	63,793	13,500	27,000	27,059
Dominican Republic	13,116	35,460	37,438	1,116	3,460	4,260
Germany(*)	37,800	204,951	210,950	37,800	204,951	210,950
India	2,672,985	7,107,019	7,270,259	1,478,189	3,900,874	4,001,098
Israel(*)	708	7,280	7,515	708	7,280	7,515
Italy(*)	859	18,610	18,902	220	5,310	5,405
Malaysia	19,200	48,000	48,001	0	0	0
Mexico	80,610	290,421	291,927	46,258	199,196	199,952
New Zealand(*)	1,059	20,217	21,417	1,059	20,217	21,417
Pakistan	396	2,790	3,069	396	2,790	3,069
Romania	1,207	8,187	10,012	0	0	0
Spain	1,967	15,489	15,735	1,161	8,899	9,053
Switzerland(*)	257	3,893	3,894	257	3,893	3,894
Thailand	955,240	2,368,526	2,491,917	356,280	862,497	915,270
Turkey	930,000	2,827,200	3,062,200	651,000	1,990,200	2,165,200
Ukraine	96,280	254,435	274,685	57,420	147,570	159,420
Uruguay	169,171	517,440	522,523	131,710	401,311	405,524
Vietnam	3,419,910	8,062,538	8,515,130	1,782,110	4,007,320	4,238,582

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	37,808	100,607	106,607	37,808	100,607	106,607
Australia(*)	400	6,342	7,142	400	6,342	7,142
Brazil	37,535	125,109	132,761	0	0	0
Bulgaria	804	2,088	2,448	0	0	0
Canada	201	5,280	5,319	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	3,248	7,253	7,540	0	0	0
France(*)	1,480	19,240	20,169	410	7,759	7,906

Greece	2,756	18,087	19,900	2,756	18,087	19,900
Hungary	2,956	18,114	19,614	0	0	0
India	21,200	82,363	86,934	0	0	0
Israel(*)	2,764	33,020	33,771	2,764	33,020	33,771
Italy(*)	817	13,407	14,147	607	11,153	11,809
Korea, South	979	8,409	8,661	0	0	0
Mexico	11,485	10,056	10,127	5,928	5,472	5,494
New Zealand(*)	112,478	1,231,283	1,257,673	5,883	94,726	98,985
Poland	3,221	18,385	19,675	2,493	15,532	16,521
Russia	12,496	9,372	10,972	12,496	9,372	10,972
Saudi Arabia	9,353	71,030	73,490	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	39,060	106,410	116,410	0	0	0
Spain	2,218	20,624	22,084	0	0	0
Taiwan	81,240	229,046	240,115	4,680	9,318	9,647
Ukraine	13,474	37,966	41,475	13,474	37,966	41,475
United Kingdom	3,320	72,586	78,506	1,100	23,545	23,639
Vietnam	948,681	1,930,019	2,051,793	416,501	831,201	885,149

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Armenia	3,452	38,534	40,073	3,452	38,534	40,073
Australia(*)	19,724	162,146	165,221	19,202	156,690	159,399
Austria	2,017	31,307	35,013	1,562	20,679	22,941
Bulgaria	60,390	204,398	215,415	23,172	83,696	88,085
Canada	42,202	288,912	290,517	31,252	199,913	200,518
Cyprus	1,385	6,459	7,105	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	186	2,036	2,240	186	2,036	2,240
Egypt	2,248	5,092	5,264	0	0	0
France(*)	52,109	264,729	278,565	26,341	134,361	143,330
Germany(*)	35,019	207,734	217,317	31,889	199,615	209,115
Greece	15,233	187,548	191,203	13,478	169,096	172,545
Hungary	29,489	286,806	297,421	17,609	165,366	171,481
India	54,441	184,469	192,918	0	0	0
Italy(*)	1,274	19,132	19,471	108	2,782	2,869
Lithuania	4,488	18,124	19,936	0	0	0
Mexico	5,009	55,863	56,403	2,029	22,618	22,918
Moldova	552	3,215	3,527	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	97,452	961,087	988,290	13,398	145,581	151,998
Poland	3,102	4,225	4,570	3,102	4,225	4,570
Portugal	3,492	21,805	22,583	3,492	21,805	22,583
Romania	4,581	16,684	17,648	0	0	0
Russia	32,739	184,749	203,224	15,464	70,036	77,040
Spain	36,579	235,543	250,543	9,000	66,903	70,903
Switzerland(*)	1,450	23,812	25,067	0	0	0
Taiwan	21,092	20,925	22,202	0	0	0
Turkey	36,180	253,004	260,192	11,567	74,562	76,394
United Kingdom	262	4,629	4,644	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	921	145,098	146,452	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	5,376	10,106	10,701	5,376	10,106	10,701
Canada	4,005	18,039	18,072	4,005	18,039	18,072
Dominican Republic	8,229	80,656	81,279	8,229	80,656	81,279
France(*)	10,752	19,390	20,961	10,752	19,390	20,961
Greece	3,087	7,658	8,114	3,087	7,658	8,114
India	28,264	81,723	85,321	15,200	31,918	33,695
Ireland	304	2,635	2,878	304	2,635	2,878

Italy(*)	43	3,444	3,799	0	0	0
Korea, South	71,910	731,496	744,471	27,119	111,270	114,721
Mexico	17,341	178,144	179,862	2,114	24,119	24,281
Taiwan	8,934	22,446	23,889	2,152	5,072	5,422
Turkey	915	4,744	4,859	0	0	0
United Kingdom	272	8,089	8,590	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	11,985	87,510	90,638	11,315	84,964	87,592
Australia(*)	8,677	73,753	75,028	8,677	73,753	75,028
Brazil	2,097,114	7,116,144	7,421,140	1,127,996	3,863,869	4,041,058
Canada	27,899	186,052	187,251	21,656	122,562	122,761
Denmark(*)	449	3,598	3,856	449	3,598	3,856
Greece	101	6,685	7,081	101	6,685	7,081
India	18,731	59,975	61,932	0	0	0
Italy(*)	1,269	14,234	14,859	0	0	0
Mexico	44,076	171,701	176,707	6,444	27,182	29,685
New Zealand(*)	6,167	46,012	50,665	1,820	20,149	22,041

GRAND TOTAL	21,622,670	63,985,405	66,374,562	10,183,422	28,980,719	30,162,126
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Notes:

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
3. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.
4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure.
QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
6. Product Group : Harmonized